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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

OSMAN, RAMY M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2157

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/713,100

Applicant(s)

HARDT, DICK C.

Examiner

Ramy M. Osman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to application filed on November 17, 2003. Claims 1-35 are pending examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 6/9/2004, 8/10/2004, 11/29/2004, 11/30/2004 and 8/2/2005 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statements are being considered by the examiner.

Claim Objections

3. Claims objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, line 11, change “and the associated” to “and its associated”.

In claim 4, line 6, change “associated with” to “associated with₁”.

In claim 12, line 7, change “messed” to “message”.

In claim 14, line 2, change “attachment” to “attachment₁”.

In claim 15, line 2, change “indicator” to “indicator₁”.

In claim 16, line 2, change “predefine” to “predefined”.

Applicant is requested to correct any further occurrence of the above mentioned informalities.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. **Claims 1,2,4-35 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Levosky (US Patent No 7,054,906).**

6. In reference to claim 1, Levosky teaches a pseudonymous email address generator for generating a pseudonymous email address associated with an email address, the generator comprising:

a request interface, for receiving a pseudonymous email address generation request from one of an external webserver in response to the creation of a webpage hosted by the external webserver, an email client application, an email client application plugin, an identity management system and a web browser plugin (column 4 line 63 – column 5 line 5); and

a pseudonymous email address creator, for creating a pseudonymous email address associated with a mail server in response to the received pseudonymous email address generation request (column 4 line 63 – column 5 line 5), for associating the pseudonymous email address with an email address (column 4 lines 27-32 and column 5 lines 4-7), for providing the created pseudonymous email address and the associated email address to the mail server associated with the pseudonymous email address (column 3 line 65 – column 4 line 3)

and for providing the created pseudonymous email address to the one of the external webserver and web browser plugin (column 5 lines 19-25).

7. In reference to claim 2, Levosky teaches the generator of claim 1 including a mail server interface for receiving from the pseudonymous email address creator both the pseudonymous email address and the email address associated with the pseudonymous email address, and for providing them to the mail server associated with the pseudonymous email address in a predetermined format (column 5 lines 27-48).

8. In reference to claim 4, Levosky teaches the generator of claim 1 wherein the pseudonymous email address creator includes means for defining properties of the pseudonymous email address, the properties selected from a list including a friendly name associated with the pseudonymous email address, a management link and corresponding attachment method and the email address the pseudonymous email address is associated with, and for providing the defined properties to the associated mail server (column 4 lines 25-40 and column 8 lines 35-50).

9. In reference to claim 5, Levosky teaches the generator of claim 1 further including a rules engine for defining a set of routing rules in accordance with requests received by the request interface, for associating the defined set of rules with pseudonymous email addresses generated by the pseudonymous email address creator, and for providing the created set of rules to the mail server associated with the pseudonymous email address (column 7 lines 1-8 and column 8 line 62 – column 9 line 12).

10. In reference to claim 6, Levosky teaches the generator of claim 5 wherein the rules engine further includes means for defining the routing rules in accordance with a set of

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parameters defined in the pseudonymous email address generation request (column 8 line 62 – column 9 line 12).

11. In reference to claim 7, Levosky teaches the generator of claim 5 wherein the rules engine further includes means for defining the routing rules in accordance with a set of default parameters (column 8 line 62 – column 9 line 12).

12. In reference to claim 8, Levosky teaches the generator of claim 7 wherein the default parameters are dependent upon a requester identifier associated with the pseudonymous email address generation request (column 8 line 62 – column 9 line 12).

13. In reference to claim 9, Levosky teaches a mailing list administration server for receiving email messages from users having registered email addresses and for distributing the received messages to recipients of a mailing list, the server comprising:

a pseudonymous email address creator, for creating a pseudonymous email address associated with both a mail server and the email address associated with a received email message (column 4 line 63 – column 5 line 5), for providing the created pseudonymous email address and the associated email address to the mail server associated with the pseudonymous email address (column 3 line 65 – column 4 line 3), and for replacing the registered email address associated with a received email message with the created pseudonymous email address prior to the distribution of the message to the recipients (column 5 lines 1-25).

14. In reference to claim 10, Levosky teaches the server of claim 9 wherein the pseudonymous email address creator includes means to replace the registered email address in both the header of the received message and the body of the received message with the created

pseudonymous email address prior to the distribution of the message to the recipients (column 5 lines 1-25).

15. In reference to claim 11, Levosky teaches the server of claim 9 further including a database for receiving and stored mappings between email addresses and the pseudonymous email address associated with them and for providing the pseudonymous email address creator with previously created pseudonymous email addresses for use in replacing registered email addresses with created pseudonymous email addresses (column 6 lines 20-43).

16. In reference to claims 12,19, Levosky teaches a mail server and method for receiving and routing messages addressed to a pseudonymous email address, the mail server comprising:

a rule-based pseudonymous email address processing engine, for retrieving from a routing rules list a set of rules associated with the pseudonymous email address in response to the receipt of a message addressed to the pseudonymous email address, for determining routing information for the received message in accordance with the set of condition based rules, and for attaching a management link to the received message in accordance with a predefined preference associated with the pseudonymous email address (column 7 lines 1-8 and column 8 line 62 – column 9 line 12).

17. In reference to claim 13, Levosky teaches the mail server of claim 12, wherein the management link is embedded in the message header (column 5 lines 27-50).

18. In reference to claim 14, Levosky teaches the mail server of claim 12, wherein the management link is selected from a list including universal resource locator, a universal resource indicator, and an email attachment and is provided as an attachment to the message (column 5 lines 27-67).

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19. In reference to claim 15, Levosky teaches the mail server of claim 12, wherein the management link is selected from a list including universal resource locator, and a universal resource indicator and is embedded in the subject line of the received email message (column 5 lines 27-67).

20. In reference to claim 16, Levosky teaches the mail server of claim 12, wherein at least one of the set of rules stored in the routing rules list and the predefine preference is generated by a pseudonymous email address generator (column 7 lines 1-8 and column 8 line 62 – column 9 line 12).

21. In reference to claim 17, Levosky teaches the mail server of claim 12, further including a user database, for receiving messages from the rules based pseudonymous email address processing engine, the messages determined to be associated with user accounts stored in the user database, and for storing the received messages for retrieval (column 7 lines 1-8 and column 8 line 62 – column 9 line 12).

22. In reference to claim 18, Levosky teaches the mail server of claim 12, further including an outgoing mail processing engine for receiving mail from an email client application, the received mail having both a destination address and a header, and for replacing a from address field in the header with a pseudonymous email address determined in accordance with the destination address (column 5 lines 27-67).

23. In reference to claim 20, Levosky teaches the method of claim 19, wherein the step of creating a pseudonymous email address is preceded by the step of receiving a pseudonymous email address generation request (column 4 line 63 – column 5 line 5).

24. In reference to claim 21, Levosky teaches the method of claim 20, wherein the request is received from a hypertext transfer protocol server in response to a request for an email address (column 3 lines 25-67, HTTP is inherent in Internet communication).

25. In reference to claim 22, Levosky teaches the method of claim 20, wherein the request is received from a web browser plug in (column 4 lines 1-25).

26. In reference to claim 23, Levosky teaches the method of claim 20 including the step of providing the created pseudonymous email address to the source of the pseudonymous email address generation request (column 4 line 63 – column 5 line 5).

27. In reference to claim 24, Levosky teaches the method of claim 19, wherein the step of creating the pseudonymous email address includes: selecting a mail server to be associated with the pseudonymous email address; selecting a pseudonymous email address prefix; and creating the pseudonymous email address by combining the selected prefix with a suffix determined in accordance with the selected mail server (column 8 lines 25-60).

28. In reference to claim 25, Levosky teaches the method of claim 24 wherein the step of selecting a prefix includes a step selected from the list of combining a username prefix and username suffix selected from predefined lists; randomly generating a pseudonymous email address prefix and generating a pseudonymous email address prefix based upon a serialized order (column 8 lines 25-60).

29. In reference to claim 26, Levosky teaches the method of claim 19, wherein the step of creating the pseudonymous email address includes creating a pseudonymous email address distinct from previously created pseudonymous email addresses (column 4 line 63 – column 5 line 20).

30. In reference to claim 27, Levosky teaches the method of claim 19, wherein the step of defining the set of rules includes one of defining a number of messages that pseudonymous email address can receive over its lifespan, defining a time based lifespan for the pseudonymous email address, defining an origination email address from which messages will be received, and defining an email address to which messages are routed if other defined rules in the set are not satisfied (column 7 lines 1-8 and column 8 line 62 – column 9 line 12).

31. In reference to claim 28, Levosky teaches the method of claim 19, further including the step of providing the created pseudonymous email address, the email address associated with the pseudonymous email address, and the defined set of rules to the mail server associated with the pseudonymous email address (column 7 lines 1-8 and column 8 line 62 – column 9 line 12).

32. In reference to claim 29, Levosky teaches a method of routing messages addressed to a pseudonymous email address and received at a mail server, the method comprising:

obtaining a set of condition based routing rules associated with the pseudonymous email address; determining an email address to which the message associated with pseudonymous email address should be routed in accordance with the obtained set of rules; attaching a management link to the message in one of a predetermine number styles; and routing the message to the determined email address (column 7 lines 1-8 and column 8 line 62 – column 9 line 12).

33. In reference to claim 30, Levosky teaches the method of claim 29 wherein the step of obtaining the set of rules includes consulting a routing rules list (column 7 lines 1-8 and column 8 line 62 – column 9 line 12).

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34. In reference to claim 31, Levosky teaches the method of claim 29 wherein the step of determining an email address includes examining the message addressed to the pseudonymous email address to determine if the origination address matches an acceptable address as defined in the obtained set of rules (column 7 lines 1-8 and column 8 line 62 – column 9 line 12).

35. In reference to claim 32, Levosky teaches the method of claim 29 wherein the step of determining an email address includes determining that the message should be discarded (column 7 lines 1-8 and column 8 line 62 – column 9 line 12).

36. In reference to claim 33, Levosky teaches the method of claim 32, including the step of sending a bounce-back message to the sender of the message addressed to the pseudonymous email address (column 7 lines 1-8 and column 8 line 62 – column 9 line 12).

37. In reference to claim 34, Levosky teaches the method of claim 29 further including the step of altering the set of routing rules associated with the pseudonymous email address (column 7 lines 1-8 and column 8 line 62 – column 9 line 12).

38. In reference to claim 35, Levosky teaches the method of claim 29, wherein the step of attaching a management link includes one of: embedding a universal resource locator in the subject line of the message; embedding a universal resource identifier in the subject line of a message; appending additional message header fields to the message header; attaching a universal resource locator to the message; attaching a universal resource identifier to the message; attaching a data file to the message; and attaching an executable file to the message (column 5 lines 25-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

39. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

40. Claim 3 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levosky (US Patent No 7,054,906) in view of Rounthwaite et al (US Patent Publication No 2004/0177110).

Levosky teaches the generator of claim 1 further including a request analysis engine for receiving from the request interface an indication of the destination of the requested alias (column 8 lines 30-60). Levosky fails to explicitly teach for determining in accordance with the indication that the email address associated with the pseudonymous email address is a honeypot address. However, Rounthwaite discloses honeypot addresses for the purpose of trapping and detecting spam (§ 72-74). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Levosky by determining in accordance with the indication that the email address associated with the pseudonymous email address is a honeypot address as per the teachings of Rounthwaite for the purpose of trapping and detecting spam.

Conclusion

41. Applicant is advised that the above specified citations of the relied upon prior art are only representative of the teachings of the prior art, and that any other supportive sections within the

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entirety of the reference(s) (including any figures, incorporation by references, and claims) is implied as being applied to teach the scope of the claims.

42. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Patent No. US005930479A, Hall teaches utilizing customized channelized addresses for sending and receiving email messages.

Patent No. US006266692B1, Greenstein teaches a method of blocking spam using header-based passwords.

Patent No US006708205B2, Sheldon teaches an email messaging system for generating alias addresses.

Patent No US 20050210107A1, Mora teaches generating disposable email addresses.

"Spamgourmet: FAQ", by Spamgourmet.com, Web Archive dated 8/29/2003, teaches creating disposable email addresses.

"Spam-me-not Documentation", by www.zapyon.de/spam-me-not, Web Archive dated 10/11/2003, teaches encoded email addresses.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramy M. Osman whose telephone number is (571) 272-4008. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

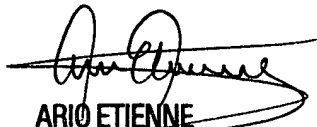
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RMO

November 22, 2006


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